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1918

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



THE STAR OF SERVICE
FOR THE FLAG, FOR LIBERTY
AND FOR JUSTICE

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



"THE MOST JUST AND
MOST COMPELLING CAUSE
THAT EVER ENNOBLED
THE PURSUIT OF VICTORY"

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

BOSTON, May 15, 1918

*To the Honorable Senate and
House of Representatives :*

There has been adopted in the Commonwealth, through common consent, a flag which indicates by a star the fact that a man is in the service of the country, which is practically uniform in character. These service flags fly from the homes of the boys, from the city and town halls, churches, colleges, clubs and other places. It is a beautiful custom and is a rare ornament to the structure flying the flags. There has not, however, been an approval by the Commonwealth of this plan, nor, so far as I know, has there been any effort to make provision for further insignia to show by these flags those who were wounded in the service, received marks of distinction, were captured, or were missing. It seems to me desirable that the Commonwealth should make some official provision so that there will be uniformity in the method of marking, and thus avoid confusion. The State is a direct partner with any family that flies a flag, and shares the joy, honor, and sorrow of the family. In accordance with this thought, I am transmitting you herewith a suggestion that has been drafted by Mr. Herbert H. Boynton, Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, who was also instrumental in providing the material for a little booklet issued by the Commonwealth on "Our Flag."

I recommend that such action be taken in the premises as you may deem proper.

Samuel W. Noble

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In accordance with the foregoing recommendation, the House of Representatives by an order dated May 28, 1918, authorized the preparation of a series of designs complete in themselves for symbolizing likely events of service, and which are capable of use for any combinations of such events, with necessary instructions for their use. An endeavor has been made to establish by the accompanying emblems, a simple and comprehensive method, not conflicting with established official usage.

The blue star (loyalty, sincerity and justice) upon a white field (hope, purity and truth) is so universally accepted as the emblem of service that its use is continued, each star representing a particular individual, the symbols being the same, however, when the white star on a blue ground is used.

Gold indicates wounds, officially recognized distinguished service, and death. (See designs 2, 3 and 4.) A gold cross in the centre of the star indicates wounds. A gold circle on the blue star indicates officially recognized distinguished service, and a gold star in the centre of the blue star indicates death. It is suggested that in the case of death, in addition to the gold star, a laurel wreath partly enveloping the blue star, may be used with excellent effect. (See design 10.) The color

red indicates missing or captured. (See designs 5 and 6.) Red diamonds placed at the base between the points of the star represent missing, and a red circle enveloping the star represents captured. If desired, rank may be shown by the proper insignia or chevron of the officer or non-commissioned officer placed directly above the star. Service in the "* zone of the advance" may be symbolized by a gold chevron placed below the star, one for each six months of such service.

Albert P. Langley

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Boston, May 28, 1918

* Zone nearest the enemy



IN RECOGNITION OF SERVICE
TO GOD, TO COUNTRY, AND FOR
AN HONORABLE AND PERMANENT
PEACE IN THE WORLD

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



In Service in the Army or Navy
of the United States

No. 1

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Wounded in Service

No. 2

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Decorated for Distinguished Service

No. 3

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Died in Service

No. 4

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Missing

No. 5

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Captured

No. 6

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Wounded and Decorated for
Distinguished Service

No. 7

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Decorated for Distinguished Service
and Died in Service

No. 8

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Wounded, Decorated for Distinguished
Service and Missing

No. 9

EMBLEMS OF SERVICE



Died in Service
Gold Star Insert
(Laurel Wreath Optional)

No. 10

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